

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 238

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5370

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESCAP, OCON
SUBJ: ESCAP-34TH SESSION

REF: STATE 039037

1. REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
(ACPR) (POSITION PAPER FOR ITEM 9 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA).

2. PROBLEM: NO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER
THE ACPR REPORT DESCRIBING ITS WORK SINCE THE 33RD SESSION AS
SET FORTH IN E/ESCAP/94 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACPR TERMS OF
REFERENCE ESTABLISHED BY COMMISSION RESOLUTION 143 (XXX). THE
FULL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACPR HAS YET TO BE ACHIEVED PARTLY
THROUGH THE ABSENCE OF TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES BY MOST REGIONAL COUNTRIES AND OWING TO THE FACT
THAT MANY OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PERFORM OTHER
FUNCTIONS WITHIN THEIR MISSIONS WHICH OCCUPY MOST OF THEIR
TIME. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A RELUCTANCE AMONG SOME REGIONAL
COUNTRIES TO EXPAND THE WORK OF THE ACPR BEYOND ITS ADVISORY
ROLE.

3. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO
INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ESCAP SECRETARIAT THROUGH
CONTINUING CONSULTATION BETWEEN ANNUAL SESSIONS. THE ACPR HAS
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DEMONSTRATED, IN IT SADVISORY CAPACITY, THE THE MECHANISM
SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE AND THAT COOPERATION IN THIS FORUM HAS
LED TO THE SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF SEVERAL ISSUES. THIS
INTERACTION HAS SERVED THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS WELL AND
HAS FOCUSED THE SECRETARIAT'S ATTENTION ON ITEMS THEY HAD
OVERLOOKED OR NEGLECTED. THERE HAS BEEN A WIDER REPRESENTA-
TION AT ACPR MEETING SOVER THE PAST YEAR AND AN INCREASING

NUMBER OF AD HOC MEETINGS HAVE ENHANCED THE ROLE OF THE APCR IN PROVIDING AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE WHERE MEMBERS FELT MORE AT EASE AND FREER TO SPEAK CANDIDLY ON ISSUES BEFORE THE GROUP.

4. US POSITION: THE US SHOULD ENDORSE THE ACPR REPORT NOTING THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR. FURTHER PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE WORK PROGRAM FORMAT AND PRIORITIES; EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROJECTS AND MINIMIZING DUPLICATION WITH OTHER UN BODIES. WE SHOULD AGREE TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION TO ASSIGN SPECIFIC TASKS TO THE ACPR WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE ESCAP CONFERENCE STRUCTURE; STUDY OF MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS; COORDINATION OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES; REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO COMMISSION SESSIONS AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF ESCAP THROUGH BETTER PRESS COVERAGE OF ITS ACTIVITIES.

5. DISCUSSION: THE ACPR WAS CREATED AT THE 1974 COMMISSION MEETING IN COLOMBO AND WAS DESIGNED AS AN ADVISORY BODY TO ASSIST THE ESCAP. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY NINE SESSIONS A YEAR PLUS AN ALMOST EQUAL NUMBER OF INFORMAL AD HOC MEETINGS HELD TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ISSUES. SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE ACPR BUT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF ITS DEBATES AND GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS.

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